

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 019824

R 271939Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8413
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 07066

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AO US GW PFOR
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 97817; BONN 4865

SUMMARY: THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS DO NOT KNOW
WHAT IS GOING ON IN ANGOLA. BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT MPLA LEADERS ARE BECOMING HOSTILE
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TOWARD THE WEST. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN OFFICE COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA MUELLER TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE FONOFF DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN ANGOLA. BUT HE HAD NOT GOTTEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ANGOLANS ARE BECOMING MORE ISOLATED FROM THE WEST. IN SUPPORT OF THIS VIEW, HE MENTIONED THE ANGOLAN AGREEMENT WITH AIR ITALIA, THE VISIT OF THE ANGOLAN MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT TO ROME, THE ANGOLAN DECISION TO HAVE POLICE TRAINED IN ITALY, AND THE VISIT OF ANGOLAN TRADE UNION MEMBERS TO LONDON.

2. REGARDING SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE INCREASING MPLA HOSTILITY TOWARD THE WEST, (REF. A.) MUELLER SAID THAT HE DOES NOT THINK ANGOLA HAS BEEN INVITED TO SIGN THE LOME CONVENTION, NOR DOES HE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MPLA IS STALLING ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES. THE ANGOLANS HAVE ASKED THE GERMANS TO CLOSE THEIR CONSULATE, BUT THEY HAVE NOT INTERFERED WITH FRG CONSULAR PROPERTY.

3. MUELLER SAID THAT THE FRG PLANNED TO TRY TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM LISBON ON WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN ANGOLA. AND HE HOPED THAT NYERERE OF TANZANIA, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT BONN MAY 4-6 WOULD BE ABLE TO SHED ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON WHAT WAS GOING ON IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH NYERERE HAD PUBLICALLY APPROVED THE CUBAN AND SOVIET ROLES IN ANGOLA, MUELLER THOUGHT NYERERE IS PRIVATELY CONCERNED OVER THE SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIONS.

4. SAYING THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE GOOD CHESS PLAYERS AND THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO NEXT, MUELLER GUESSED THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD BIDE THEIR TIME IN ANGOLA CONSOLIDATING THEIR INFLUENCE BEFORE VENTURING FURTHER. IN THE MEANTIME, THEY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT FOR OTHER BLACK LIBERATION GROUPS.

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5. ON THIS AND OTHER OCCASIONS MUELLER HAS ARGUED THAT THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS ARE GIVING THE WEST A "BREATHING SPELL" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE BELIEVES THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS SHOULD USE THIS PERIOD OF GRACE TO CONVINCE SOUTH AFRICA'S VORSTER TO CUT OFF SUPPORT FOR IAN SMITH AND TO GET OUT OF NAMIBIA. BUT HE IS NOT SURE HOW THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, SINCE THE SOUTH AFRICANS SEEM IMMUNE TO

WESTERN PRESSURE. IN FACT, MUELLER THINKS THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE BECOMING MORE STUBBORN AND ISOLATIONIST. PERHAPS, HOWEVER, THE WEST COULD AT LEAST CONVINCE VORSTER AND NAMIBIAN WHITES TO ALLOW ALL BLACK AFRICAN POLITICAL GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE NOW BANNED, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WHEN IT RECONVENES IN JUNE.

6. MUELLER ALSO TAKES THE POSITION THAT IN ITS AID PROGRAMS, THE WEST SHOULD TRY TO AVOID A FURTHER

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 271939Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8414
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 07066

EXDIS

POLARIZATION OF AFRICAN CONFLICTS ALONG EAST-WEST LINES BY AIDING ONLY THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH SIDED WITH THE WEST DURING THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR. THEREFORE, THE WEST SHOULD PROVIDE AID TO ANGOLA AS WELL AS TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE. ALTHOUGH THE FRG HAS NOT PLANNED ANY CAPITAL ASSISTANCE FOR ANGOLA, IT COULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD THE ANGOLANS REQUEST IT. BUT ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE TIED TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

7. MUELLER, WHO ARGUES THAT WEST GERMAN SUPPORT FOR
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BLACKS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD PAY OFF IN THE LONGRUN, DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE FRG WILL BE ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING TOWARD THE MPLA BEFORE THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS, IF THEN. HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FEELS HIMSELF UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE OPPOSITION TO TAKE A HARD LINE TOWARD COMMUNISM. AND SINCE MANY GERMANS PRESUMABLY SEE THE MPLA AS A COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, OTHER THAN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS, THE FONOFF IS RELUCTANT TO TAKE STEPS WHICH MIGHT LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT OPEN TO CHARGES THAT IT IS NOT OPPOSING COMMUNISM IN ANGOLA. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH GENSCHER WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE THE FRG'S CONSULATE IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, HE WILL NOT DO SO UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS, IN ORDER TO AVOID APPEARING AS IF HE WERE BOWING TO MPLA ("COMMUNIST") PRESSURE.

8. CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, MUELLER SAID THAT THE FRG WOULD FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE IT USED WITH MOZAMBIQUE. A SMALL GERMAN DELEGATION WILL GO TO LUANDA IN MAY TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHING RELATIONS.
HILLENBRAND

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